



# Environmental Progress

## Clean Air

INDOT works to ensure that state and local transportation plans and programs conform to the Indiana air quality plan, known as the State Implementation Plan (SIP). INDOT strives to eliminate or lessen traffic congestion by funding and implementing such techniques as Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS), better signal timings, intersection improvements, alternative transportation modes (bus, train, bicycle, pedestrian), park and ride facilities and ridesharing programs. INDOT also cooperates with the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) to provide vehicle emissions testing and public awareness.

## Clean Water

INDOT is experimenting with the use of constructed wetlands for wastewater treatment at our rest areas. Constructed wetlands will typically last 100 years, with one-twelfth of the maintenance requirements of other options. Albeit constructed wetlands require more land area than some other treatment options, some of their advantages are: high quality treated water, chemical-free treatment, pleasing aesthetics and effective compliance with regulations.

## Prairie Maintenance

INDOT has been cooperating with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) on a highway prairie management project for several years. Natural prairie remnants occur along several stretches



*Burning prairie grass at I-70 and German Church Road*

of highway in Indiana. As a part of the cooperative INDOT/DNR management, efforts include no mowing or use of herbicides, removal of noxious weeds/woody plants and periodic burning of the grasses.

## Resource Conservation and Recovery

INDOT continues its determination in the reduction and elimination of hazardous materials. Due to this effort, no INDOT facility carries a large generator status. INDOT has adopted the use of land farming for onsite remediation of petroleum impacted soil. This practice decreases landfill accumulation and remediation costs. INDOT is constantly critiquing its current procedures to help improve disposal methods.

## Waste Management

Issues dealing with the environment have come to the forefront in the U.S. and more specifically, Indiana, in the past few years. Waste diversion and recycling are terms that have become mainstream issues with many companies in relation to the bottom line and the “right thing to do.” INDOT is no exception, and for the past few years has been a leading government agency in Indiana in efforts to minimize the amount of discarded waste from our facilities.

INDOT has targeted specific waste streams such as concrete/asphalt, light bulbs, oil, antifreeze, filters and tires. In addition, tons of steel and aluminum scrap, which is recovered from guardrails, sign posts and signs, from INDOT construction projects is auctioned off to metal scrap dealers each year. Furthermore, INDOT has also been researching ways to use waste streams from other industries. This includes the utilization of fly ash, foundry sand and coal combustion waste as possible fill materials in construction projects and the use of waste tires in the construction of roads and as a component in the compound used in crack sealing of roads.